GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2134
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2001
REDUCTION OF PULSE RATES
PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the facility of reduced tariff reflected in the pulse rates for distances between 50 to 200 Kms. Announced by the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanager Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) are not extended to calls originating from mobile telephones but terminating at a fixed telephone connected to and provided by BSNL;

(b) if so, whether this is not discriminatory in nature and also violative of licence agreement requiring cellular operators to collect STD charges from their subscribers at BSNL prescribed rates; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government to treat similarly all calls, whether originating, on transit or terminating on BSNL circuits?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) The facility of reduced tariff reflected in the pulse rates for distances between 50 to 200 Kms. Announced by the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) is not extended to calls originating from mobile telephones but terminating at a fixed telephone connected to and provided by BSNL.

(b) No, sir. It is not discriminatory in nature. As per the Telecom Tariff Order 99 issued by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), each telecom service provider is permitted to offer alternate tariff packages to its own customers. The concessional/alternate tariff package in the form of reduced STD charges for distances between 50 to 200 Kms has been extended by BSNL and MTNL to their customers for calls originating and terminating in the basic services network as is also being done by other service providers including the cellular service providers for their own customers. The calls from one network to another network including the calls form cellular network to the basic network are charged as per an agreed revenue sharing arrangement at the tariffs prescribed by TRAI. This is also in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Licence Agreement.

(c) No action required in view of (b) above.